

**ALIMONY CLAIM, \$106,260**

**Wife Goes Back to 1878 to Figure Claim Against Husband.**

**NEVER PAID. SHE ASSERTS**

**Railroad Contractor Denies He Falsely Represented Amount of Income and Inheritance.**

Probably the largest claim for back alimony that has ever been made in the Supreme Court is the one Mrs. Henriette E. Godfrey brought with suit against her husband, Adolph E. Godfrey. The wife wants her husband to pay her back alimony from 1878 to date. If the case should be decided against him the aggregate sum would amount to \$106,260. The couple were married in 1869.

The defendant is a well known railroad contractor. When the wife and husband separated, in 1878, they entered into a trust agreement whereby the husband bound himself to pay his wife \$50 a week for life and also was to take out a \$20,000 insurance policy on his life and keep up the payment of the premiums, making Mrs. Godfrey the beneficiary. Several persons have served as trustees under the agreement since it was made, including William Nelson Cromwell.

Godfrey, according to his wife, failed to keep up the payment of the premiums on the policy and never paid her the \$50 a week. She says that in 1885 it became necessary for Cromwell, as trustee, to sue the husband for the alimony that he owed, a judgment for \$5,728 being rendered against him. This judgment, however, was never paid. Godfrey saying that he had no money. In 1896 further actions were brought against him for his non-payment of the alimony to his wife.

Mrs. Godfrey said that her husband had falsely represented the amount of his income. Godfrey also had declared, she said, that it was not he, but a person of the same name, who had inherited a large estate in Germany, although Mrs. Godfrey declared she learned that it was her husband who had received the inheritance, amounting to \$35,000. Subsequently, in March, 1898, the couple entered into a new agreement, under which Herman L. Uriel became the trustee and whereby the husband was to pay the wife \$10 a month, she waiving all prior claims.

Mrs. Godfrey, in her present action, refuses to abide by this second agreement, asking that it be set aside on the ground that it was obtained by fraud. She said that her husband had accumulated a large fortune, exclusive of his real estate. This real estate, declared the wife, Godfrey had transferred to one Elizabeth Foley, who also is known as Elizabeth Godfrey, the wife said.

The fraud, it was alleged, consisted of the statements made by Godfrey regarding his financial status at the time the new agreement was made. The plaintiff insists that the old agreement be carried out whereby she was entitled to \$50 a week and also wants the back alimony from 1878.

Godfrey entered a general denial to the allegations of his wife. He asked in the Supreme Court yesterday that she be compelled to furnish him with a bill of particulars as to when and where he made the alleged false representations about his income. His motion was denied.

**SOUTH SEA EXHIBIT AT MUSEUM**

**Extensive Natural History Collection Opened to the Public.**

A hall containing the large South Sea Islands collection of the Museum of Natural History was opened to the public yesterday. For many years the museum has waited for proper quarters in which to exhibit this collection.

The exhibits are from the celebrated Sturgis collection, purchased by the museum in 1891; the Robley collection of tattooed heads, donated by the late Morris K. Jesup; the Waters Fiji collection, presented by Mrs. Morris K. Jesup; the Hawaiian feather capes, donated by George S. Bowdoin; collections from New Guinea and the Caroline Islands, presented by Jacob H. Schiff, and a number of smaller collections obtained by gift or purchase.

The collection has been divided into four divisions—namely, Australia, Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. Owing to the rarity of South Sea pottery, special attention is called to the Fiji earthenware. The Micronesian exhibits include many implements of war, the natives of this section being especially warlike. Totem images, examples of curious tattooing and objects demonstrating all phases of the lives of South Sea natives are shown.

A collection of thirty-one paintings made among the South Sea Islands by the late John La Farge has been loaned by Miss Grace Edith Barnes.

**CANAL ASSOCIATION PROTESTS**

**Objects to Plan of Dix to Abolish Board of Consulting Engineers.**

The proposal of Governor Dix to abolish the advisory board of consulting engineers has called forth a strong protest from the Canal Association of Greater New York. The protest has been put in the form of resolutions, which have been sent to the Governor and the members of the Legislature.

In a preamble to the resolutions an instance is cited when through the prompt action of the advisory board a claim aggregating \$60,000 was defeated and that expense saved. From the first, it is declared, the board's activities have been conducted without adverse criticism and always for the greatest good. It has been a constant check, it is said, on expenses in the development of the state barge canal, and the continuance of the board is necessary for the orderly progress of work now under way.

**FITZGERALD ON EXHIBITION**

**Mayor of Boston Sings Before Ten Thousand at Burns Celebration.**

Boston, Jan. 25.—The voice of Mayor John F. Fitzgerald ringing over the heads of ten thousand persons in the refrain of "Sweet Adeline" was an unexpected feature of the fifty-seventh celebration of the birth of Robert Burns by the Caledonian Club at the Mechanics' Building to-night. Notwithstanding the Mayor as being undignified in lifting his voice at public gatherings in the topical song which figured in his mayoralty campaign, there were loud calls for the song to-night, and the Mayor rendered it from the platform. The applause which followed lasted several minutes, and the Mayor responded by repeating the song.

Governor Eugene N. Foss and Chief James L. Williamson of the Caledonian Society were speakers at the celebration.

**SPANKING CAUSE FOR DIVORCE**

**Wife of Physician Says Her Husband Used Hairbrush**

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Pittsburg, Jan. 25.—Cruel and barbarous treatment and indignities are found by the master, who has been hearing the divorce application of Mrs. Amelia Berence Knoepfle, née Abel, to be sufficient cause for recommending that she be divorced from Dr. D. G. Knoepfle.

Mrs. Knoepfle felt compelled to seek this release when she recovered consciousness after a fainting spell into which her husband's conduct had thrown her, and found him spanking her with a hairbrush. They were married at Boston, in July, 1886, and came to Pittsburg several years ago. They have three children.

The skins of the hyenas will be sent to the Museum of Natural History. The animals had their last laugh late in the afternoon, when an extra knuckle bone was given to each.

**CONTRACTOR REPORTED MISSING.**

John A. Carter, fifty years old, a contractor of the Hotel Avon, 39th street and Lexington avenue, was reported missing last night to the police of the East 35th street station, by his wife. She said he had been missing since Tuesday.

He was described as weighing about 165 pounds, is 5 feet 8 inches in height, light complexion and hair and blue eyes. When last seen he wore a black shirt, dark gray overcoat, brown fedora hat and black shoes and stockings. He had \$30 in cash and a gold watch and chain.

**WOMEN FALL FROM HORSES**

**Mrs. Fauser Plays Spirited Jeu de Barre at Durland's.**

A game of jeu de barre which opened the contest for equestriennes at the Durand Riding Academy last evening, proved the attraction of the programme, and while the game is always interesting there were a few interpolated incidents which gave added zest to the game last night.

Mrs. G. M. Fauser, Mrs. W. E. Woodend and Miss Bispham were the contestants, and as they rode into the ring it was evident that their mounts had been well selected and would need no urging. Mrs. Fauser was the first to the centre, and she defended her red ribbon so skillfully that when the whistle blew at the end of the first minute neither of her pursuers had even a fighting chance to seize it.

Miss Bispham next went into the ring, and here the overzealous Mrs. Fauser and her equally ambitious pony came to grief. In racing for the ribbon he made a quick turn, which seemed to cross his fore feet and throw him, and horse and rider went down on the tanbark in a heap. Neither seemed to mind the fall, and quickly mounting, Mrs. Fauser joined the chase.

Miss Bispham was quite as successful, however, in defending her ribbon as Mrs. Fauser had been, and in the last period the two joined forces to try and secure the blue ribbon worn by Mrs. Woodend. When the whistle finally blew each rider had her ribbon intact, which made the game tie. This is the first in a series of jeu de barre for which Fred Gerken has offered for competition a silver cup.

A tug of war on horseback was responsible for several of the contestants biting the dust, and more than one of the docile steeds came to grief. Every one seemed to enjoy the performance, however, with the possible exception of the end man on the western corner, who was used as a windlass, and who narrowly escaped death by hanging as the opposing forces tugged at the rope. He finally conceded the brilliant idea of winding it around Dobbin's neck, and this manoeuvre won the game for Joe Holden's team.

Colonels W. T. Russell, W. M. Black and G. W. Roesser, of the engineer corps, are the members of the board. They will send their findings to the Secretary of War.

Philip Franklin, general manager of the International Mercantile Marine Company, told the board that he thought the great steamship lines would be forced from Manhattan Island if larger docking facilities were not permitted. He asked for an increase of 100 feet in the length of the Chelsea docks. He said the Olympic and Titanic, the world's largest steamers, which are now building,

"We do not want to leave Manhattan Island," declared Mr. Franklin, "but we will be forced to if we cannot get proper accommodation. Other steamship lines will do the same. It would be a menace to the interests of the port of New York to withhold this improvement."

Mr. Franklin predicted that a number of nine-hundred foot ships would come into the port within the next few years.

Dock Commissioner Tompkins spoke in favor of enlarging the piers one hundred feet offshore from the end of the Chelsea docks in a straight line to Pier 1.

C. H. Hasbruck, who represented the Association of Masters, Mates and Pilots,

told the board at the afternoon session that traffic in the East River was heavier than in the North River, but that they got along well enough in that narrow stream. He said that if the North River were narrowed by pier extension, even the biggest ocean liners could turn in midstream without interfering seriously with river traffic.

Captain Passow of the steamship New York said there would be plenty of room for all craft even if the piers were extended into the waterway. A plea for the extension of the piers on the New Jersey shore from a point opposite the Battery to Constable Hook was made by J. C. Paine, of the New Jersey Riparian Commission. Several other speakers favored the pier extension and resolutions from many associations were read.

At the West 6th street station the police said Loder had confessed to the murder, and had told them all the shocking details.

A quarrel arose between the two men over the alleged theft of a revolver on Tuesday, and from this the tragedy developed, the police said. Their theory that the watchman had been surprised in bed by the murderer, they said, was borne out by Loder's statement.

Loder was found in another basement apartment, directly across the hall from where the body of Curran lay. Detectives Barber and Fitzpatrick said that they verified the prisoner's story in regard to his having paid a number of secret visits to the blood stained apartment between the time of the killing and the arrest.

Then, as a sudden afterthought, as if practical necessities were forcing them selves upon his grief, he cried:

"Let me have 26 cents, quick!"

The undertaker's assistant, supposing his firm was to get the body, advanced the half dollar, and the "father" hurried away, ostensibly to go home and consult the boy's mother. Mr. Cody was notified, and telephoned the report in due form to the Coroner's office. Then he went around to No. 25 West 15th street with his wagon, but he found that no Currahs were known there. It was a boarding house, and the woman who kept it was angry when she found what the undertaker wanted. She was made still when Coroner's Physician O'Hanlon appeared and wanted to investigate. She was seen to have been lying on the floor of the undertaker's shop.

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